The Person-Case Constraint in Old English

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The Person-Case Constraint

Strong PCC (Basque, French, Greek, Kiovian, ...): In a combination of a weak direct object and an indirect object, if there is a 3rd person animate it has to be the direct object. [Bont 1991: 182, Anagnostopoulou 2008: 15–16].

Weak PCC (Catalan, Spanish, Italian, ...): In a combination of a weak direct object and an indirect object, if there is a 3rd person it has to be the direct object. [Anagnostopoulou 2008: 13, 15].

The Person-Case Constraint in Old English: previous research

The usual view: continental Germanic doesn’t seem to have any PCC restrictions (for German and Dutch, Cardinaletti 1999: 65, Haspelmath 2004).

1. *The most important merchant has sold you to me.* (Anagnostopoulou 2008: 13).

Bonet (1991) shows the PCC to be operative in Swiss German & English:

2. *They showed her me.* (Bonet 1991: 41).


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